

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (*original*)

A method for joining a coupling element, e.g. a joining flange means, to a pipe, said coupling element surrounding the pipe and having grooves facing the pipe and intended to receive a corresponding plurality of beads provided on the pipe, characterised in the steps of:

- 5 - providing said coupling element to surround the pipe at an end region thereof,
- providing a first and dedicated radial directed pressing action on the inside wall of the pipe at axial locations of the pipe corresponding to location of said grooves on the surrounding coupling element to deform the pipe thereat to
10 create said beads and cause said beads to project into said grooves, and
- providing a second and dedicated radial directed post-pressing action on the inside wall of the pipe at buckled-in regions of the pipe wall that naturally occur between and adjacent the created beads during and caused by the first
15 pressing action, to cause a post-pressing of said regions in an outward direction, thereby providing an outward tension in the pipe at the location of the coupling element.

2-6. (*cancelled*)